

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

The specification is sought to be amended to include the priority information, as shown above. No new matter has been entered based on these amendments.

Claims 9 and 12 are sought to be amended. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 12 being the independent claims. No new matter has been entered based on these amendments.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 12-20 because of minor informalities. Applicant has made the changes suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing new matter. The Applicant has made the changes suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 12-17 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 in U.S. Patent 6,731,374 to Sewell ("Sewell").

Applicant is submitting a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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Appl. No. 10/807,268
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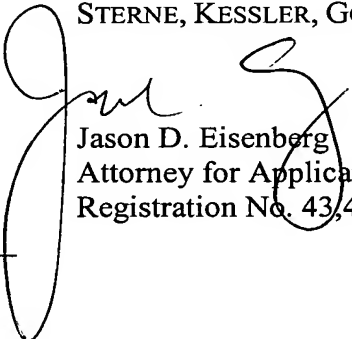
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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